9. A National workshop on Preparedness, Control and Containment of Avian Influenza was organized at Pune during May 2007 and recently a Regional Workshop of the North-Eastern States (Sikkim, Assam, Meghalaya, Tripura, Manipur, Mizoram, Arunachal Pradesh, Nagaland and West Bengal) was organized at Kolkata by Government of India from 26-28th July 2007.

Inclusion of Orissa under NHM

4. MS. PRAMILA BOHIDAR: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) how many districts of Orissa have been included under National Horticulture Mission; and

(b) the details of measures that are proposed to be taken for development of horticulture in Orissa?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) Nineteen districts of Orissa have been included under National Horiticulture Mission.

(b) For the development of horticulture in Orissa, the measures/activities being undertaken under National Horiticulture Mission includes production and distribution of quality planting material, area expansion of fruits, flower, spices, aromatic and medicinal plants, rejuvenation/replacement of senile orchards, creation of water resources, protected cultivation, promotion of Integrated Nutrient Management, Integrated Pest Management, adoption of organic farming, pollination support through bee keeping, technology dissemination through demonstrations, development of infrastructure for post harvest management and marketing besides skill development of farmers, departmental officers and entrepreneurs through training and exposure visits.

Horticulture College in Orissa

5. MS. PRAMILA BOHIDAR: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether ICAR proposes to provide funds for establishment of one Horticulture College in Orissa under OVAT and for development of horticulture sector in the State; and

(b) if so, the details along with the status of the project?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) No, Sir. Agricultural Education is a State subject and establishment of agricultural universities/colleges comes with the purview of the concerned State Government.

(b) The question does not arise.

Special mission for Wheat, Rice and Pulses

†6. SHRI SANJAY RAUT: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to launch a special mission very soon in order to increase the production of wheat, rice and pulses; and

(b) if so, whether any other programme is also proposed to increrase the growth rate of agriculture sector along with the above programme?

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) and (b) The Government is contemplating a Centrally Sponsored Scheme "National Food Security Mission" in the country to enhance the production of wheat, rice and pulses during XI Five Year Plan. Besides, a proposal for introduction of Additional Central Assistance (ACA) scheme to State plans to be administered by the Ministry of Agriculture over and above its existing Centrally Sponsored Scheme is under consideration of the Government to increase growth in agriculture in the country.

Promotion of Vermi Compost and Bio-fertilizers

†7. SHRI HARISH RAWAT: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the percentage of wastes from urban and rural areas of the country being used for preparing vermi compost and other bio-fertilizers;

(b) whether the wastes from the urban and rural areas of the State of Uttarakhand are also being used for preparing vermi compost and other bio-fertilizers, and

(c) if so, the details thereof and the measures taken by Government so far to encourage it?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) Authentic data is not available on percentage of wastes from urban and rural areas of the country being used for preparing vermi compost. Bio-fertilizers are bacterial preparation and no waste is used for their preparation.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) For encouraging compost production, composting techniques including vermi compost, NADEP compost, BD-compost, EM-compost, CPP/Bokashi, Taral Khad are being promoted under "National Project on Organic Farming", "National Horticulture Mission" & "Technology Mission on Integrated Development of Horticulture in North Eastern States, Sikkim, Jammu & Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh and Uttarakhand."

Sale of Spurious Fertilizers, Pesticides and Insecticides

8. SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOOT: Will the Minsiter of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that spurious fertilizers, pesticides and insecticides are being sold in some parts of the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof and its impact on agriculture produce;

(c) the number of cases that has come to light during last two years; and

(d) the steps taken to prevent production of spurious fertilizers, pesticides and insecticides?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) and (b) No cases of large scale adulteration of fertilizer, pesticides and insecticide have been reported to the Ministry. By and large good quality of fertilizers & insecticides are being sold in the country. Natural factors like untimely rains, floods,

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.